



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,353	12/19/2005	Norikazu Shinogi	CU-4615 RJS	9695
26530 7590 02/18/2009 LADAS & PARRY LLP 224 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE SUITE 1600 CHICAGO, IL 60604				
EXAMINER				
HICKS, ROBERT J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3781				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/18/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/561,353

Applicant(s)

SHINOBI, NORIKAZU

Examiner

ROBERT J. HICKS

Art Unit

3781

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 January 2009 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/19/2009

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Because of the applicant's amendment, the original objection to the drawings and the rejections of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112 2nd Paragraph, in the office action filed July 9, 2008, are hereby withdrawn.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. The claim includes reference characters which are not enclosed within parentheses [y and y' in Claim 5 Lines 11-15]. Reference characters corresponding to elements recited in the detailed description of the drawings and used in conjunction with the recitation of the same element or group of elements in the claims should be enclosed within parentheses so as to avoid confusion with other numbers or characters which may appear in the claims. See *MPEP* § 608.01(m).
- b. The phrase, "...a female mold and a male metal mold were joined at the flange part ..." [Claim 5 Lines 9-10] could be written as "...a female mold and a male metal mold that were joined at the flange part" Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

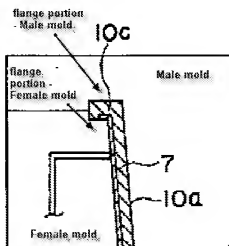
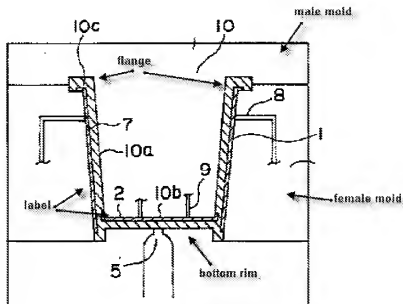
USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

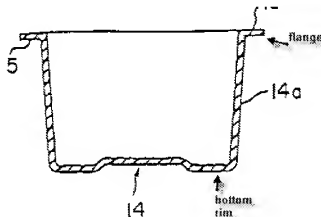
5. **Claims 5, 7, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinoki et al. (Japanese Patent Application No. 11-105067) [hereinafter Shinoki] in view of Okabe et al. (5,257,709) [hereinafter Okabe] and further in view of Uchida et al. (4,909,411) [hereinafter Uchida].**

6. Regarding Amended Claim 5, the publication to Shinoki – an in-mold label container – discloses an in-mold labeled plastic container [10, Paragraph 6 Lines 5-6, Paragraph 14 Line 1] fabricated by an in-mold labeling fabricating method [3, 4] by which molding of the container and labeling are accomplished at the same time by fitting an in-mold label [1, 2] into a gap [Fig. 1a], and injecting molten resin [7, Paragraph 8 Lines 5-8] into said gap, said gap being formed by using a female metal mold [3] and a male metal mold [4] and by joining said female mold and male mold [Fig. 1a]; the in-mold label container being characterized in a flange portion [10c] formed at the upper end of the side part of the container, and a bottom rim [10b] formed on the bottom part of the container [Fig. 2a], with the bottom rim labeled in the similar way to the side part of the container [Fig. 2a].



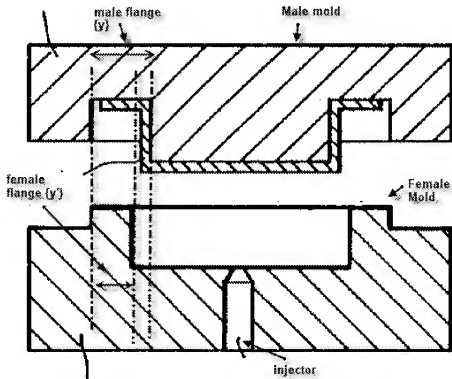
Shinoki does not expressly disclose that the flange has dimensions of 2 mm or more in flange width and 0.5 mm or more in flange thickness; however, the patent to Okabe – a plastic container made by molding – discloses a container [Okabe, 14] with a flange [Okabe, 15] in which the flange has a width ranging between 1.0 and 2.5 mm, and a thickness ranging from 0.2 to 1.0 mm [Okabe, Col. 24 Lines 15-17]. It would

have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill, with known options available to one of ordinary skill within their technical grasp leading to anticipated success, to modify the dimensions of the flange and bottom rim portion in the Shinoki container to have a flange width more than 2.0 mm plus thickness more than 0.5 mm, as suggested by Okabe, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. See *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).



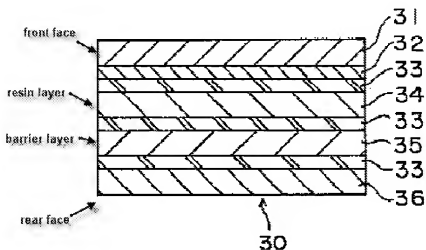
The Shinoki and Okabe combination does not expressly disclose the remaining features of amended claim 5; however, the patent to Uchida – an injection molded container using metal molds – teaches a male mold (**Uchida**, 17) and female mold (**Uchida**, 15) in which the flange width {y'} of the flange part formed by the female mold is smaller than the flange width {y} of the flange part formed by the male mold (**Uchida**, Fig. 9), wherein the flange width {y'} is a width between the inner end of the flange part which is located at lower side of the flange part and the outer end of flange part formed by the female mold, and the flange width {y} is a width between the inner end of the flange part which is located at lower side of the flange part and the outer end of flange

part formed by the male mold (**Uchida**, Fig. 9). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill, with known options available to one of ordinary skill within their technical grasp leading to anticipated success, to modify the dimensions of the male and female molds at the flange part so that the female flange part is smaller than the male flange part to make the Shinoki and Okabe combination injection molded container, as suggested by Uchida, as "The container is improved in dimensional stability; [that] is, its contraction percentage is decreased." (**Uchida**, Col. 8 Lines 22-23).



7. Regarding Amended Claim 7, Shinoki in view of Okabe in view of Uchida discloses all the limitations substantially as claimed, as applied to amended claim 5 above; further, Shinoki teaches the label (**Shinoki**, 1) is a label having a configuration (**Shinoki**, 30) in which a plurality of thin films are stacked, the thin film positioned on the front face (**Shinoki**, 31) and the thin film positioned on the rear face (**Shinoki**, 36)

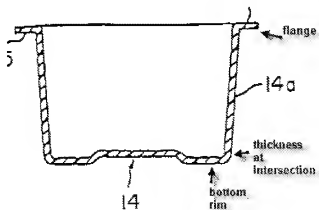
consist of thin films of the same material (**Shinoki**, Fig. 6), and further at least a resin film layer (**Shinoki**, 34) and a barrier layer (**Shinoki**, 35) having a defined strength or barrier layers having a defined strength are stacked between these thin films (**Shinoki**, Fig. 6). The cross-sectional area of Figure 6 shows that the two outermost layers are made of the same material. See *MPEP* § 608.02 (IX).



8. Regarding Amended Claim 9, Shinoki in view of Okabe in view of Uchida discloses all the limitations substantially as claimed, as applied to amended claim 5 above; further, Okabe teaches the fluid length {L} of the injected molten resin and the average wall thickness {t} of the container is: $L/t \leq 250$ [Okabe, Col. 10 Lines 3-9]. With the length of the container being 55 mm, and the thickness being 1.1 mm, the ratio of the length to the thickness is approximately 50.
9. Regarding Claim 10; Shinoki in view of Okabe in view of Uchida discloses all the limitations substantially as claimed, as applied to amended claim 5 above; further, in the combination, Shinoki teaches a bottom rim (**Shinoki**, 10b) formed on the bottom part of the container with the bottom rim labeled in the similar way to the side part of the

container (**Shinoki**, Fig. 2a), and Okabe teaches the bottom rim (**Okabe**, 14b) with a dimension not less than 0.3 mm but not more than 20 mm (**Okabe**, Col. 10 Lines 6-9).

10. Regarding Claim 11, Shinoki in view of Okabe in view of Uchida discloses all the limitations substantially as claimed, as applied to claim 10 above; further, Okabe teaches the relationships among the wall thickness of the intersection between said bottom rim and the bottom part of the container {A} [**Okabe**, 14a, 14b], the wall thickness of the bottom part of the container {B} [**Okabe**, 14b] and the wall thickness of the side part {C} [**Okabe**, 14a] of the container are: $A \leq 2 \times B$ and $A \leq 2 \times C$. The wall thicknesses of the bottom rim portion and the side wall is 1.1 mm, and the wall thickness at the intersection of the bottom wall and the side wall is also be 1.1 mm. Therefore, the relationship between the wall thicknesses is met in Okabe.



11. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinoki in view of Okabe in view of Uchida as applied to amended claim 5 above, and further in view of Tachi et al. (2002/0150706) [hereinafter Tachi].

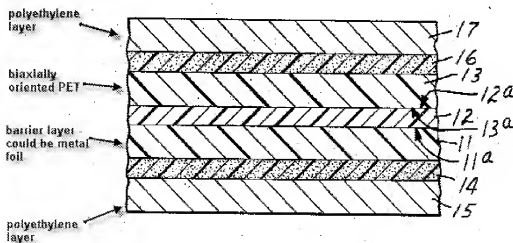
Shinoki in view of Okabe in view of Uchida discloses all the limitations substantially as claimed, as applied to amended claim 5 above. The Shinoki, Okabe,

and Uchida combination does not expressly disclose that the thickness of said label is not more than 150 μm ; however, the publication to Tachi – a bottle with an attached label – teaches a resin container [Tachi, 1] with an attached label [Tachi, 2] of thickness less than 150 μm [Tachi, Paragraph 39 Lines 1-3]. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill, with known options available to one of ordinary skill within their technical grasp leading to anticipated success, to modify the thickness of the labels in the Shinoki, Okabe, and Uchida combination container to be less than 150 μm , as suggested by Tachi, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. See *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

12. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinoki in view of Okabe in view of Uchida as applied to amended claim 7 above, and further in view of Paciorek et al. (3,685,734) [hereinafter Paciorek].

Shinoki in view of Okabe in view of Uchida discloses all the limitations substantially as claimed, as applied to amended claim 7 above. Although Shinoki discloses the thin film positioned on the front face and the thin film positioned on the rear face of said label consist of biaxially oriented polypropylene resin film layers or polyethylene resin film layers [Shinoki, Paragraph 19 Lines 1-5], the Shinoki, Okabe, and Uchida combination does not expressly disclose that said resin film layers having a defined strength consist of biaxially oriented polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film layers, biaxially oriented polyamide film layers or biaxially oriented polypropylene film layers, and the barrier layers consist of metal foil layers, vapor-deposited metal film

layers, or inorganic vapor-deposited oxide film layers. However, the patent to Paciorek – a magazine consisting of plastic and foil layers - teaches two plastic resin layers [Paciorek, 15, 17] that surround a resin layer [Paciorek, 13] made of biaxially oriented PET [Paciorek, Claim 8], and a barrier layer [Paciorek, 11] that could be made of metal foil [Paciorek, Col. 5 Lines 34-37]. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill, using the teaching, suggestion, and motivation within the prior art, to modify the label in the Shinoki, Okabe, and Uchida combination container to have a biaxially oriented PET resin layer and a metal foil layer in between two polyethylene resin layers forming a magazine stack of layers, as suggested by Paciorek, to form "a composite laminar sheet structure comprising (1) a base ply having a low vapor transmission rate, ... and (3) a flexible, continuous, extremely smooth, removable, replaceable cover sheet ply having a low vapor transmission rate." [Paciorek, Col. 2 Lines 11-17].



Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks Page 5 Lines 19-21, filed January 9, 2009, with respect to the §103(a) rejection of claim 5 as obvious over Shinoki in view of Okabe, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The §103(a) rejection of claim 5 as obvious over Shinoki in view of Okabe has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: refer to PTO-892 Notice of References Cited.

15. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **ROBERT J. HICKS** whose telephone number is

(571)270-1893. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick can be reached on (571) 272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert J Hicks/
Examiner, Art Unit 3781

/Anthony D Stashick/
Anthony D Stashick
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3781